

18 May 1983

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Conservative Party Election Manifesto Launched.

Brent East selection meeting.

Penlee Inquiry Findings.

CBI Pay Data Bank figures.

AGM of the National Association of Prison Visitors

London Transport annual report.

Central Transport Consultative Committee annual report.

Fire Brigades Union annual conference, Bridlington.

NALGO special conference on pay.

Statistics:

Indices of average earnings (March).

Indices of basic rates of wages (April).

Local Government financial statistics.

Publications:

Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland.

Transport Committee: 2nd Report - Serpell Report on Review of Railway Finances (1100).

Ministers

Mr Whitelaw speaks at European Conference of Probation Officers Association, Windsor (7.30 pm).

Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith meet Mr Muldoon.

Mr Rees at UK/Soviet joint commission (until 19 May).

Mr Buchanan-Smith opens 2nd Temperature Controlled Storage and Distribution International exhibition, Wembley conference centre.

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PRESS DIGEST

The pops splash "I was MI5 scapegoat" claim by Miss Dorothy Barsby who accused the Security Commission of doing a whitewash and a cover-up. The heavies also cover Miss Barsby but PM's Williamsburg/Stuttgart plans are on the front pages.

WILLIAMSBURG/STUTTART

- PM's decision to attend Williamsburg - briefly - was expected and the Mail comment says "she should certainly be in there pitching". The postponement of Stuttgart is seen by the Guardian as a let down and they think PM will not be able to deliver the EC rebate in the timescale she promised. PM's quote "a General doesn't leave the field of battle" attracts attention. But it was emphasised that she had not requested the postponement.

ELECTION

- Peace declared in Brent as Freeson gets nomination.
- SNP starts campaign claiming its poised to win 12 seats.
- Alliance launches programme for Wales claiming it could win 12-15 seats.
- Labour moderate John Sever ousted from Ladeywood by left-wingers to fight Meriden.
- Conservative controversial adverts appear.
- Ted Heath is tactful saying he will be fighting for the Tories and hints at being prepared to serve under Mrs T.
- Prince Charles bets a bottle of claret that no Party will win overall majority.
- Mirror front page highlights row over Satchi and Satchi hiring a hospital in Bethnal Green shutdown by Government cuts to make a Party political broadcast and Mirror comment looks at how "the ad men cometh".
- Paisley seeks poll pact with official Unionists to keep out Sinn Fein and SDLP.

EC

- Modest farm price increases averaging 4.2% seen as a victory and Peter Walker gets credit for tough negotiating.

OVERSEAS

- Syrians blockade roads into Beirut as Israel signs troop withdrawal pact with Lebanon.
- Mitterrand attacks American budget deficit and high interest rates as cause of world recession. Two day meeting starts in Paris for 6 Socialist countries to draw up their response to the economic crisis.
- President Moi of Kenya amidst talk of crisis/traitors/disloyalty orders September election a year early to "clean the system".

DEFENCE

- Heseltine renews CND attack in a letter to Conservative candidates.
- Leo Tindemans thinks Lord Carrington will be next Secretary General of NATO.
- Geneva talks resume with signs of flexibility.
- David Owen confirms that the Alliance is prepared to back deployment of Cruise.
- CND rejects request from 'Women and Families for Defence' to make statement during 'Peace for Pentecost' service at Upper Heyford base.
- Guardian notes Civil Service Unions are examining how resources devoted to nuclear arms "could be re-channelled".
- Telegraph leader writer thinks Trident is "too big, too expensive, too devisive".
- Advertising Standards Authority uphold complaint against the Navy for failing to substantiate <sup>quote</sup> attributed to Admiral Gorshkov in their recruiting ads.

ECONOMY

- A number of papers say recovery hopes are hit by 1% (in fact .9%) drop in industrial production in March but Telegraph points out production in first quarter was 1.4% higher than the last quarter of '82.

- FT expects renewed efforts to cut long term public spending and Civil Service manpower if Tories win,

#### EMPLOYMENT/UNIONS

- New strike threat by waterworkers if Government de-centralises their pay machinery emerged yesterday from NUPE conference.
- Peace hope in Timex dispute as "understanding" is worked out which will be put to the shop stewards tomorrow.
- Workers at BL's Albion plant in Glasgow warned in letter from Company Chairman that factory will be closed unless they call off their week old strike.
- NALGO leaders reject 4½% and prepare for industrial action as they press to get 8.3% - 26.9%.
- 400 tube workers at British Steel, Corby, to go on short time because of slump in orders.
- Sun highlights strike-breaking wives ultimatum to husbands "go back to work or we'll leave" at Marconi plant, Kidsgrove.
- Guardian reports patchy response to YTS scheme could mean thousands being excluded from it.

#### PM'S DEPARTMENT

- Times leader thinks PM may recruit up to 20 from within and outside Whitehall together with a Chief of Staff to strengthen her office.

#### IRELAND

- A Bill to give British people living in the Irish Republic full voting rights launched in the Dail.

*Romola Christopherson*

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